

Maj. Gen. John Kem to take USAWC, Carlisle Barracks command: LIVE at armywarcollege.edu/live

Maj. Gen. John Kem to take command at Army War College and Carlisle Barracks

*Change of command ceremony to be live streamed, 1
pm at www.armywarcollege.edu/live.*

Maj. Gen. William E. Rapp, the 50th Commandant of the U.S. Army War College and Senior Mission Commander of Carlisle Barracks will relinquish command to Maj. Gen. John S. Kem in a formal, traditional Army change-of-command ceremony Friday, July 28 at 1 p.m.

at
Bliss
Hall,



Carlisle Barracks.

The change of command ceremony will include the passing of the Army War College colors and remarks by the presiding officer, Maj. Gen. Rapp, and Maj. Gen. Kem.

Gen. David Perkins, commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command will be the presiding officer.

Maj. Gen. Kem will be the 51st Commandant of the U.S. Army War College.

Maj. Gen. Kem was commissioned in 1985 through the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, where he graduated as a distinguished cadet and earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

Most recently, Maj. Gen. Kem served as the first Provost of the Army University and Deputy Commandant of the Command and General Staff College (CGSC). As Army University Provost, he oversaw the reorganization of the Army's education enterprise into a university structure, maximizing efforts to achieve valid academic credit for Soldiers' education and experience, consolidating and improving the curriculum and faculty development programs and developing the Army University Press, the publishing arm of the Army University that includes "Military Review," "The NCO Journal," and the Combat Studies Institute. He was responsible as well for the day-to-day operations of CGSC, encompassing the Command and General Staff School, School of Advanced Military Studies, School for Command Preparation, Army Management Staff College, Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, Ga., and Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Kem's command assignments include these: Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division in Portland, Ore., 2013-2015; Europe District Commander for North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2008-2011; 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division in Germany and in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, 2003-2005; and Company A, 307th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., 1991-1992.

Among his Army assignments: he served as Chief of Programs Division for the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, Wash, D.C.; Director, Coalition-Joint Engineering Directorate, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan; Executive Officer to the Director Joint Improved Explosive Device Defeat Organization, Wash, D.C.; Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, Wash, D.C.; Congressional Fellow, Wash, D.C.; Operations Officer, 10th Engineer Battalion and Operations Officer, 3rd Engineer Brigade, Fort Stewart, Ga.; and Asst. Professor, Department of Social Sciences, USMA.

As a captain he served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in the 307th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division; as a lieutenant in 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division in the Federal Republic of Germany; and as Boeselager Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

Kem earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University's Kellogg Business School. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Army Command and General Staff College, and Industrial College of the Armed Forces where he earned a Master of Science in National Resource Management. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia and a Chartered Financial Analyst.

He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge.

Maj. Gen. Kem was born in Chicago. He and his wife, Martha, have

three children.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 25 July 2017